

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [001] as follows:

[001] The present application is ~~a Continuation-In-Part (CIP) of~~ related in subject matter to co-pending and commonly assigned ~~US patent application serial number~~ Application No. 10/071,363, filed ~~on~~ February 7, 2002, ~~the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein in its entirety. The subject matter of the present application is also related to the subject matter disclosed in co-pending and commonly assigned US patent applications serial number 09/272,056, entitled "Methods And Systems For Single Sign-On Authentication In A Multi-Vendor E-Commerce Environment And Directory-Authenticated Bank Drafts" Application No. 09/272,056, filed on March 18, 1999; serial number 09/405,741, entitled "Methods And Systems For Carrying Out Directory-Authenticated Electronic Transactions Including Contingency Dependent Payments Via Secure Electronic bank Drafts" filed on September 24, 1999 and serial number 09/490,783, entitled "eDropShip: Methods And Systems For Anonymous E-Commerce Shipment" , Application No. 09/405,741, filed September 24, 1999, and Application No. 09/490,783, filed on January 24, 2000, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety~~ entireties.